

20 21

BEDFORD *Annual Report*



Letter from the Mayor **Michael Boyter**



Without a doubt, 2021 was a big one for the City of Bedford. As an organization, the City underwent numerous leadership, service, and program changes, which led to a sense of renewal and revitalization throughout the community.

We saw a bounce back in our sales tax numbers for 2021 and I'm happy to report the City has seen a 25 percent increase in sales tax revenue over the

past five years. With 78 new businesses opening their doors last year, we are optimistic we'll see even more of an increase in next year's numbers.

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Looking ahead, one source of revenue increase for the City is liquor sales. Thanks to the voters who initiated and overwhelmingly passed the measure in late 2020, the City's first package store, Goody Goody Liquor, opened in August and was met with immediate success. Another business highlight was the Council approval of a measure that paved the way for Rock Island Auction Company, the world's largest fine and historic firearms and militaria auction house, to move its headquarters and on-site auction facility to Bedford. Rock Island also purchased the neighboring shopping center and intends to revitalize both locations.

Another Council priority that started to take shape was enhancing public art in Bedford. We hired the City's first Cultural Arts Manager in August, who hit the ground running by holding a traffic signal

box design contest, crosswalk design competition for local students, and several community special events. We look forward to more public art in 2022 with a number of projects in the works.

The Police and Fire Departments also made strides in 2021. Each department welcomed new Chiefs – Police Chief Williams arrived in March and Fire Chief Walker started with Bedford in June. Since then, both have worked hard to fill vacancies; replace outdated equipment, policies, and procedures; and start a new chapter. I'm proud to say our Fire Department's hard work paid off when they were awarded the prestigious Insurance Services Office Inc. Public Protection Class 1 rating and the Texas Fire Chiefs Association "Best Practices" designation all in the same month.

Also under new leadership, the Public Works Department unveiled the City's first five-year strategic street improvement plan, which was approved by Council in July. It's no secret, Bedford's uneven roads are long overdue for maintenance and repairs. Our major thoroughfares along with 65 of our neighborhood streets are included in the plan, with Harwood and Forest Ridge scheduled for repaving first in 2022.

Our Library staff continued going above and beyond for our community, adjusting to the ongoing pandemic as necessary and even expanding services and amenities such as the expanded Wi-Fi and StoryWalk® books. They were even able to return to planning in-person events and saw huge success with the return of the Beers, Brats, and More event.

City Council



Michael Boyter
Mayor



Cindy Almdarez
Council Member Place 1



Dan Cogan
Council Member Place 2



Amy Sabol
Mayor Pro Tem
Council Member Place 3



Rich Steves
Council Member Place 4



Ruth Culver
Council Member Place 5



Rob Gagliardi
Council Member Place 6

Our Recreational staff was also able to hold some special events and senior programming. It was great seeing so many of you enjoy our Musical Collaboration Celebration, Halloween Bash, and the Christmas Tree Lighting. I always have a fun time dropping in on the senior guitar jam and have been known to show off a few moves at the senior dances.

Since Generations Park at Boys Ranch was closed due to ongoing construction, staff was able to showcase the neighborhood parks through events such as Hearts in Parks and Surprise Egg Drop, along with other scavenger and treasure hunts. Without a doubt, everyone is looking forward to bigger gatherings and celebrations next year as we cut the ribbon on Generations Park at Boys Ranch.

While we have so much to look forward to in 2022, I am so proud of the amazing progress and accomplishments we made as a City in 2021. As I say all the time, this is just the beginning of what we can accomplish together to make Bedford an even better place to call home.

Strategic Planning and Council Priorities

The City of Bedford's mission is to enhance the quality of life in Bedford for all residents by creating an attractive, secure, and inclusive community. The City Council will proactively work together in a transparent manner for the future, foster economic growth, encourage citizen involvement, and preserve our City for future generations.

The following Strategic Goals help guide decision-making by the City Council:

- 1 Revitalization:** Revitalize storefronts, streets, and neighborhoods to attract future residents and businesses to the community.
- 2 Economic Vitality:** Promote high-quality economic growth and business development that expands and diversifies the tax base and will enhance the quality of life for Bedford residents.
- 3 Transformation:** Cultivate vibrant, unique spaces that enhance the community and attract and benefit residents, businesses, and visitors.
- 4 Organizational Excellence:** Aligning efforts to drive internal effectiveness with those that create external impact. Bedford is committed to becoming a high(er) performing organization that delivers exceptional service to customers.
- 5 Communicate and Engage with Citizens:** Engage the community in City government by providing timely and accurate information in numerous formats and services, actions, and decisions.

Our Vision

"Bedford is a vibrant, transformational community. We achieve this through our pursuit of economic vitality, fostering sustainable neighborhoods and commercial areas, and providing excellent customer service to our residents."



Public Works

New Public Works Director

In September, Cheryl Taylor was promoted to Public Works Director, previously serving as the City's Engineer.



Strategic Street Improvement Plan

In June, the City Council approved a five-year Capital Improvement Plan to address the condition of the City's aging thoroughfares and neighborhood streets. To create the plan, staff used a previous pavement analysis, and prioritized roads that were at least 40 years old. A total of 65 high-priority neighborhood street segments were incorporated into the plan for improvements. For more information on the plan, visit www.bedfordtx.gov/streetplan.



Water & Sewer Projects Completed

Brookwood Hills

Unlocked all 15,000 water meter boxes in the City

Began Forest Ridge Waterline Project

Began Harwood Road Waterline Project



Street and Traffic Projects Completed

Reconstruction of 16 Residential Streets

L Don Dodson Dr. Street Paving (with Tarrant County)

Forest Ridge Dr. Street Paving (with Tarrant County)

Shady Brook Dr. Sidewalk Installation

Bedford Rd. Sidewalk Installation

Signal Replacement at Lincolnshire Dr. and Forest Ridge Dr.

Crosswalk Installations along Oncor Trail

Pedestrian Crossing at Martin Dr. and Cummings Dr.

Development

78

TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW
BUSINESSES

New Restaurants

Bigs Bar & Grill – 1601 Airport Fwy

Chick-fil-A – 1850 Central Dr.

Halal Grills – 241 N. Industrial Blvd.

Jan Thai Kitchen – 313 Harwood Rd.

Smoothie King – 2200 Airport Fwy

Turning Point Beer (expanded taproom) – 1307 Brown Trail

Twisted Root Burger (new ownership) – 2820 Central Dr.

View the restaurant directory at
www.bedfordtx.gov/restaurants
for a list of all Bedford restaurants.

Other Notable New Businesses

Goody Goody Liquor – 1612 Airport Fwy

Residence Inn by Marriott – 2000 SH-121



Controlling Our Development

In December, the City closed on the purchase of the 18.5 acres located at 205, 209, and 401 N. Industrial Blvd. The purchase triggers a full redevelopment of the land with City officials' ultimate vision being a mixed-use project with uses that may include residential, retail, restaurant, office, hospitality, and entertainment.



Bedford Commons

In 2021, the Bedford Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) #1 was approved by both the Tarrant County College District and Tarrant County. As part of the TIRZ, these entities will now dedicate a portion of their increment value to the infrastructure and common areas associated with Bedford Commons.

Restaurant and Retail Survey

The results are in!

Check out the full report at www.bedfordtx.gov/survey for the top 20 most requested retailers and restaurants the community wants in Bedford.

Rock Island Auction Company

In November, the City Council approved a measure to bring Rock Island Auction Co., the world's largest fine and historic firearms and militaria auction house, to Bedford. The company will move their headquarters to 3600 Harwood Rd., in addition to purchasing the neighboring shopping center at 3508 Harwood Rd. and invest over \$5 million in renovations to the new spaces.

Fire

9,795



*Welcome,
Chief Walker!*

In June, we welcomed Fire Chief Bill Walker to Bedford! With more than 30 years in the fire service, Chief Walker came to Bedford from Santa Monica, California where he served as Fire Chief.

FIRE CALLS
4,421

EMS CALLS
5,374

**TOTAL NUMBER OF
CALLS FOR SERVICE**

12.9%

**INCREASE
FROM 2020**

ISO 1 Rating

The Fire Department earned the coveted Insurance Services Office Inc. Public Protection Class 1 rating, the highest level a Fire Department can earn, in February. The Class 1 rating means lower property insurance rates for home and business owners, as insurance companies use ISO PPC ratings to establish premiums.

Out of the approximately 30,000 fire departments rated, only about 1 percent can achieve an ISO Class 1 rating. In order to do so, the Bedford Fire Department had to meet a nationwide standard for budgeting, equipment, personnel, training, and planning.

Best Practices Designation

The BFD was awarded the Texas Fire Chiefs Association "Best Practices" designation in February. The Best Practices Program encourages Texas fire departments to implement industry-standard best practices, achieve benchmark levels of excellence, and seek continual improvement in their community services.



Deployments

In August, members of the department were deployed to Louisiana to assist with Hurricane Ida response. While there, the Bedford crew assisted with cleaning up areas, responding to service calls, and handing out supplies to families who lost their homes.

Bedford Fire was also deployed to assist with Tropical Storm Zeta response and continued to administer COVID-19 vaccines throughout the year.



TOTAL NUMBER OF
CALLS RESPONDED TO

36,996



New Patch

In September, the BPD unveiled its new patch to mark a new chapter in the department. The BPD expects officers to remain loyal to Bedford citizens and to the calling they serve, insist they serve with honor and to live their lives in a way that will never tarnish the integrity of being a Bedford Police Officer, and lastly, demand they serve with courage to safeguard Bedford citizen, as well as to push change in the community that benefits everyone.

BPD Clears 1986 Cold Homicide Case

With the help of modern DNA technology, Bedford Detectives solved the 1986 homicide of Janet Elaine Love. For 35 years, detectives continually worked on the case and followed leads, and in 2021, in cooperation with the Texas Department of Public Safety, were able to utilize Department of Justice grant funding to help develop a suspect profile using forensic genetic genealogy testing from DNA left at the crime scene. Detectives identified a suspect and confirmed he was the perpetrator, using kinship analysis from two close family members. The suspect had passed away prior to his identification, but the results brought closure to the family of the decedent.

Senior Care Call Program

The department established the Senior Care Call Program for Bedford seniors (age 65 and older) who live alone and would like to receive a phone call from BPD volunteers to check on their welfare twice a week.

Police

Welcome,
Chief Williams!



In March, Jeff Williams was sworn in as the Bedford Police Department's Police Chief. Chief Williams came to Bedford from the City of North Richland Hills, where he served for more than 23 years. In 1996, Chief Williams started his law enforcement career with Bedford as a patrol officer.



Animal Shelter

TOTAL ANIMALS ADOPTED

286

99

ANIMALS
TRANSFERRED
TO RESCUE



Library

33,476

TOTAL NUMBER OF CARDHOLDERS

280

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAMS OFFERED

over 1.6 million

MINUTES READ BY SUMMER READING CLUB PARTICIPANTS

Beers, Brats, and More

The Bedford Public Library Foundation's annual event was held in October, and featured three bands, food trucks, and a variety of beer from local breweries.



StoryWalk® Installed

In December, Bedford's first two StoryWalk® books were installed at Central and Harris Ryals Parks. StoryWalk® allows readers of all ages to enjoy a story and the outdoors at the same time. The project was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services and Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

Accomplishments

- Expanded Wi-Fi to include the parking lot and Library Greenspace
- Began circulating hotspots and Chromebooks to residents, donated by the Bedford Library Foundation
- Partnered with Girl Scout Troop #1538 to install a Neighborhood Food Pantry on Library grounds
- Partnered with the Beautification Commission and Parks Department to create a Rock Garden with interactive children's games

107,035

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS

ITEMS IN THE LIBRARY'S COLLECTION:

205,401

94,300
PHYSICAL

(books, magazines, DVDs)

111,101
DIGITAL

Parks *and Recreation*



Generations Park at Boys Ranch

Construction continued at Generations Park at Boys Ranch and is anticipated to be completed in fall 2022. The park will include The Center, a multi-generational recreation center, as well as an indoor/outdoor aquatic facility, softball/baseball complex, special events lawn, and multipurpose field area.

For additional information on the project, visit www.bedfordtx.gov/generationspark.

Roy Savage Pool
MORE THAN
3,500
VISITORS FOR OPEN SWIM



Neighborhood Parks Discovery Program

With Generations Park at Boys Ranch under construction, staff strived to introduce the community to other parks within the City. To achieve this, different programs were held at neighborhood parks, including Hearts in Parks, Magical March, Surprise Egg Drop, Bug Out Scavenger Hunt, and the Reindeer Escape Treasure Hunt.

To view all Bedford parks, visit www.bedfordtx.gov/parksguide.

Projects Completed in 2021:

- Installed wildlife ramp that will aid in Texas Parks and Wildlife research
- Completed 200-foot retaining wall near Boys Ranch Lake
- Relocated 16 trail benches previously located along Central Drive to the Linear Trails
- Repaired 12-inch drain valve in Boys Ranch Lake that broke during February winter storm
- Completed two bridge overhauls at Cheek Sparger Trail and Brook Hollow Park



Special Events

With the cancellation of many special events in 2020, the City was excited to bring back celebrations in 2021.

Pickle Party

A Christmas tradition for many, City staff hid special pickle ornaments around the Old Bedford School lawn. Those who were lucky enough to discover an ornament received a grab bag full of pickle-flavored goodies, including some adult-only drinks.

Christmas Tree Lighting

To kick off the holiday season, this event had its highest attendance ever recorded by the City.



Musical Celebration

Celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Sparkling Ice Musical Pocket Playground, this event featured musical performances, a guitar art show, activity area, and food trucks.

Halloween Bash in the Pumpkin Patch

For the first year, Recreation teamed up with the Library Pumpkin Patch to host this popular event, which included carnival-style games, market vendors, food trucks, and more.



Other Events Included

Outdoor Movie Night

Veterans Day Celebratory Fun Run

Easter Drive-In Movie

July Fourth Fireworks

Senior Center

235 TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERSHIPS

25 WEEKLY CLASSES
46 TOTAL PROGRAMS





Cultural

Arts

In 2021, the City expanded its cultural arts programs and events by hiring its first Cultural Arts Manager, Krissi Oden. For the latest cultural arts news, visit www.bedfordtx.gov/arts.



Traffic Signal Box Art Project

The Traffic Signal Box Art Project was kicked off in August, inviting artists to compete for a chance to have their art featured on a traffic signal box in Bedford. City staff wish to wrap 26 boxes in total, and wrapped the first 7 in 2021.

Crosswalk Contest at Bedford Junior High

In October, Bedford Junior High art students were challenged to create a design that would be used for the first decorated crosswalk in Bedford. Located at the intersection of Carolyn Drive and Brown Trail, City staff and the winning student-artist painted the crosswalk over the course of two days in December.



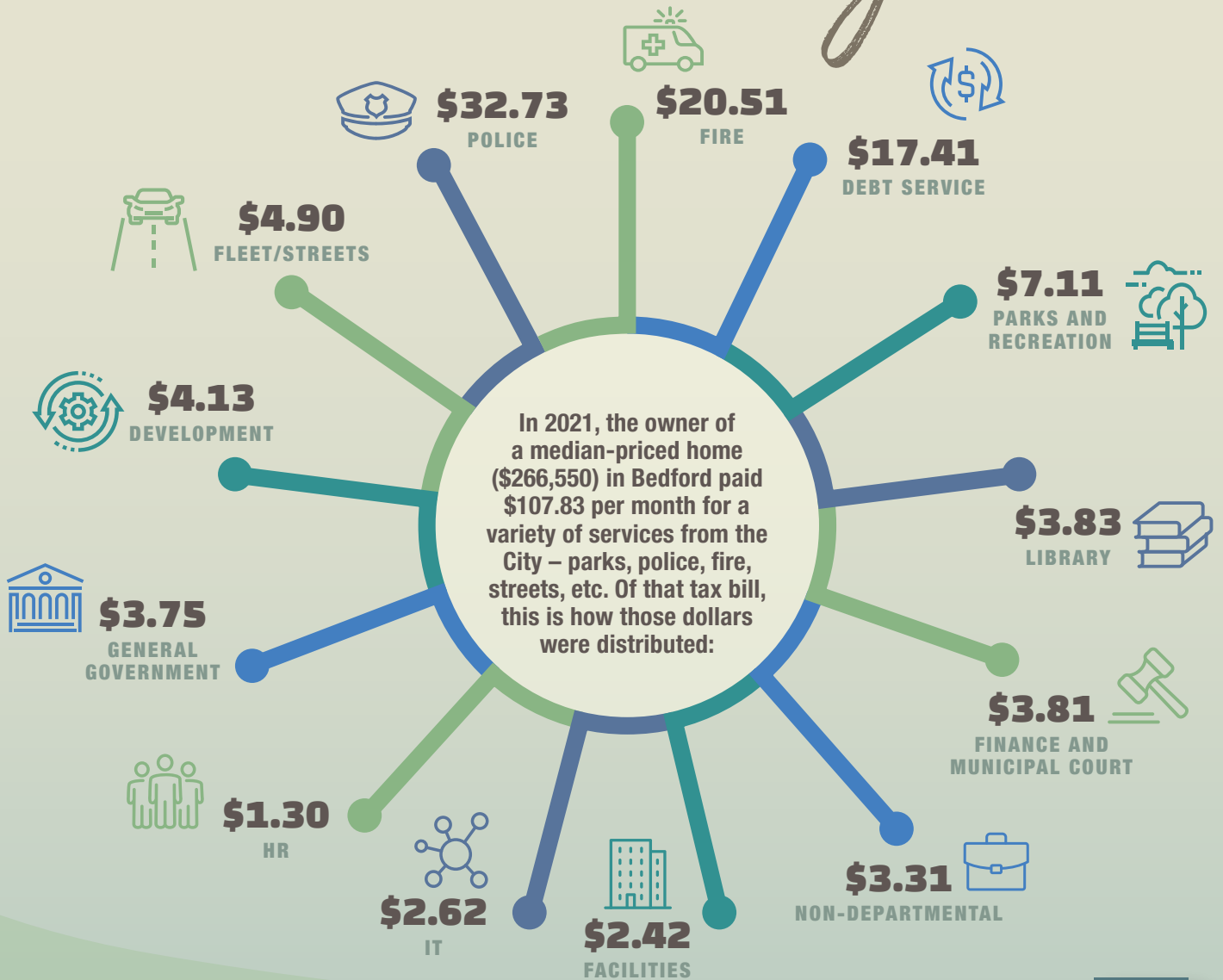
Chalk Art Contest

The City's first "Chalk It Up!" chalk art contest was held at Harris Ryals Park in November. Participants were assigned a square, provided chalk, and sent on their way to create an outdoor art gallery!

Sip and Sketch Events

The City teamed up with Turning Point Beer to host the first Halloween and holiday-inspired "Sip and Sketch" events in October and December. Artists moved from station to station and sketched themed objects placed on tables throughout the brewery. Participants were given a sketch book, drawing pencil, and drink tickets.

Finance and Budget

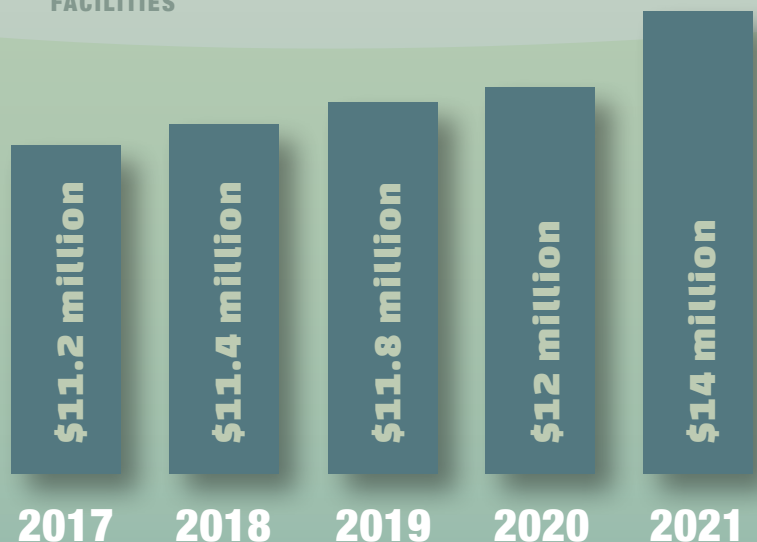


Sales Tax

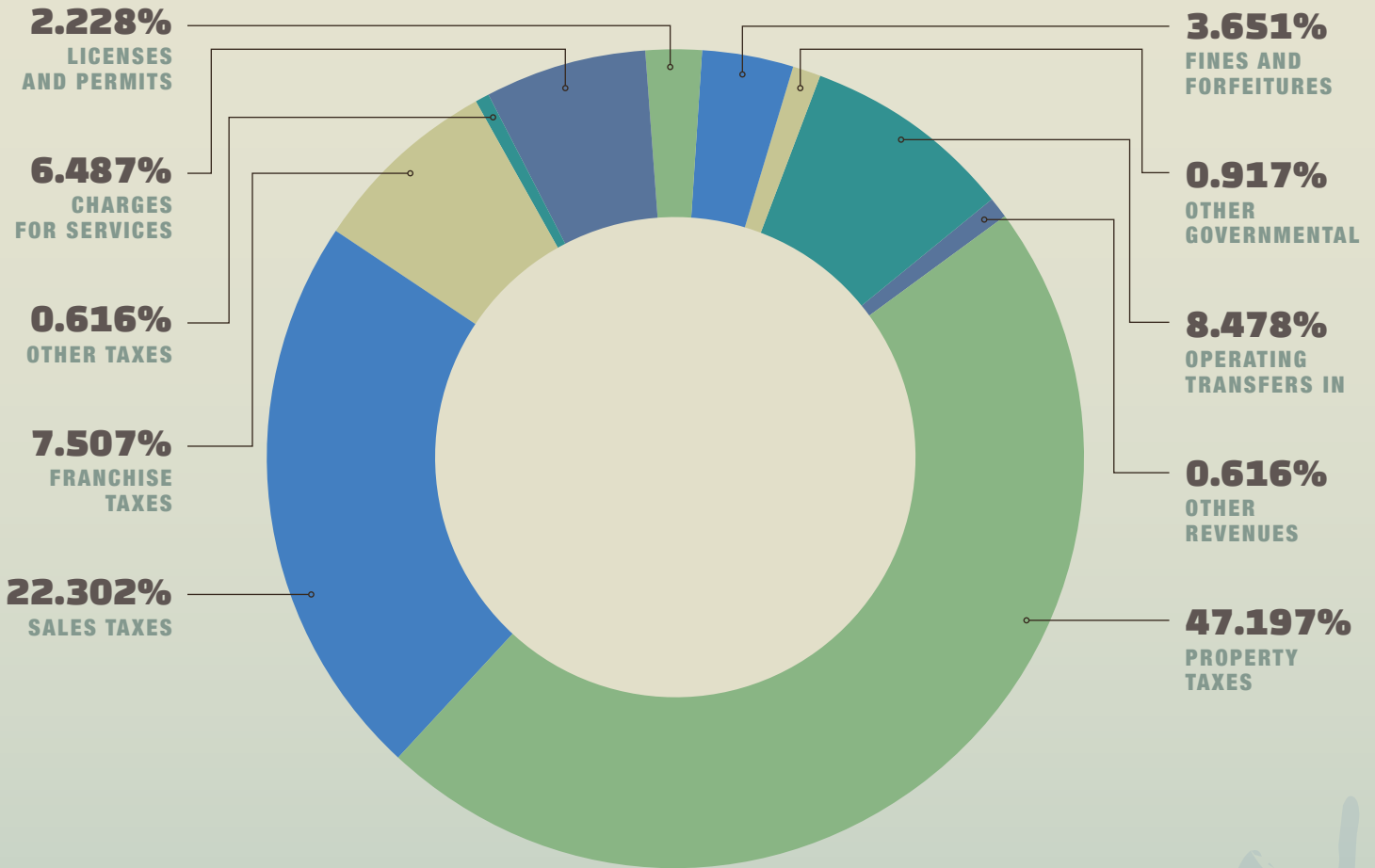
FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON

Sales tax continues to increase in Bedford. Over the last five years, it has increased by

25%

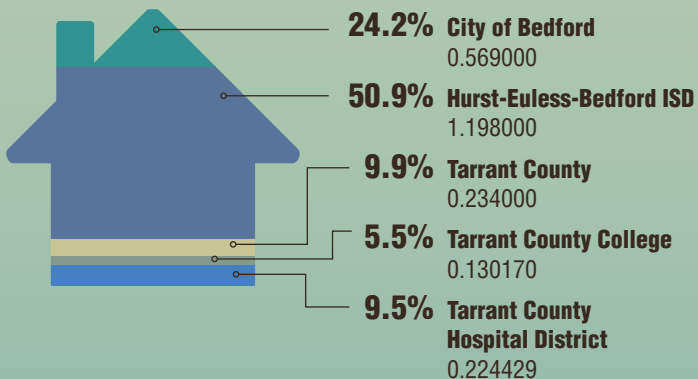


General Fund Revenues

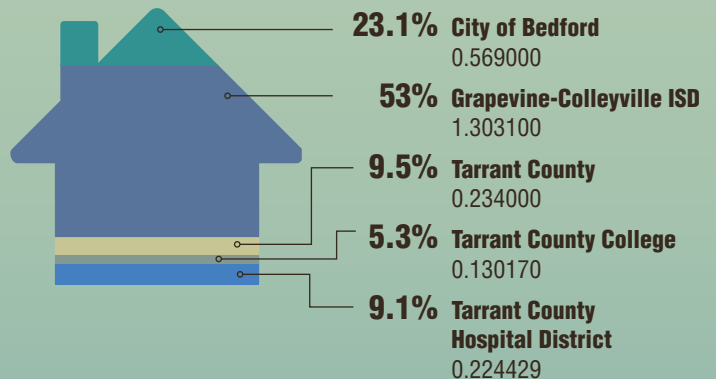


Property Tax Rates

HOMES WITHIN HURST-EULESS-BEDFORD ISD



HOMES WITHIN GRAPEVINE-COLLEYVILLE ISD





CITY OF
BEDFORD

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